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Your best stroke PAGE 07

"Draftsmen's Congress," a recently opened work at the New Museum, allows the public to paint on the floor and walls. / AYMANN ISMAIL, ANIMAL NEW YORK

New York tops in mass transit use

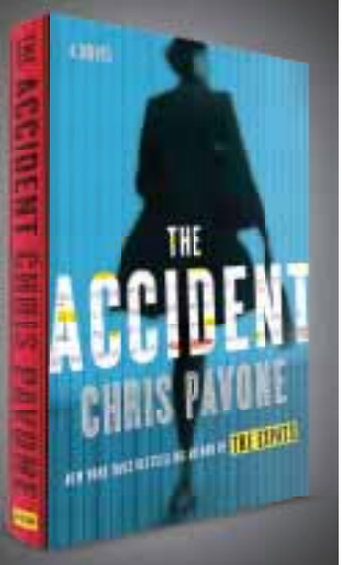
Getting around. A new report says that NYC is leading a surge in national public transportation use with more than 3.4 billion rides taken on the bus and subway system between 2012 and 2013. **Trippy.** One third of the mass transit trips in the United States are made in the five boroughs. PAGE 02

New Order fronted by Iggy Pop?
PAGE 16

Giants, Jets targeting free agency
PAGES 27-28

Taking a gamble on spring break
PAGE 21

A NEW THRILLER
FROM THE AUTHOR OF
THE EXPATS
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
WINNER OF THE EDGAR AWARD



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1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Pug picks fight with police dog, officers'

2 'DIARY: Metro's Ned Ehrbar is let loose in Austin for the interactive and film portion of SXSW'

3 'Minnesota Rep. Pat Garofalo tweets racist comment about NBA'

Today's tweet

"I am hoping Phil Jackson flirting with New York is to simply apply pressure to the Lakers to bring him into the front office. #WeNeedHim"

@Derek_A_Simmons

See more at www.metro.us

New York City Transit ridership increased 3.6 percent between 2012 to 2013 / MILES DIXON, METRO

City leads national mass transit surge

Riding high. A report found city subway and buses accounted for one in three transit trips in the U.S. last year.

An even-more crowded commute could become the national norm for straphangers.

New York City is leading a national surge in public transportation use, with subway and buses accounting for one in three mass transit trips made in America last year, according to a new report released Monday.

The American Public Transportation Association found mass transit riders took nearly 10.7 billion trips nationwide in 2013 — the highest number since 1956.

New York City Transit ridership increased 3.6 percent from 2012 to 2013, with over 3.4 billion trips last year, according to report data. Subway ridership increased 4.2 percent at over 2.6 billion trips.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority attributed ridership gains to service improvements and fare deals through the MetroCard, like free transfers. Rebound from the economic recession has also played a role.

Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign said that younger New Yorkers are now more likely to use mass transit.

"Millennials, unlike the baby boomers, are not programed to want to move to the suburbs and spend their life picking up people in the family car," he said.

The MTA added that the transit system, partially due to younger ridership and crime reduction, is being used more during off-peak hours.

"Everybody's out and they're happy they can take the train to the club," Russianoff said.

Change

"There is a fundamental shift going on in the way we move about our communities."

Michael Melaniphy, American Public Transportation Association

Increase

4.2%

Subway ridership increased 4.2 percent from 2012 to 2013.

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Transit

The pair who found Kareem / DCPI

Missing boy found riding subway

A missing Brooklyn boy found by a rider on a subway train Monday said he spent most of the five days since his disappearance in the transit system.

"It was a very big world," Kareem Granton, 11, told reporters after reuniting with his family. "I didn't think I would probably make it."

Kareem, last seen Wednesday, said he ate at Chuck E. Cheese and spent nights on the subway since he was last seen leaving a friend's apartment Wednesday. He said he didn't know anyone but his mother was looking for him.

Police said Kareem was found after a woman spotted him on a southbound 4 train at Union Square station during the morning commute Monday.

Kareem disappeared from his East New York apartment after school Wednesday, when he left a friend's home around 3 p.m. **ANNA SANDERS**

Harlem charter school

Parents sue city over school co-location

Parents are filing a federal lawsuit this week after the city's Department of Education decision to reverse three charter school co-locations, leaving 194 students without space come September.

The parents at the Success Academy Harlem Central Middle School said on Monday morning that the city's recent decision to revoke approved co-locations violated their children's constitutional right to adequate education.

Almost 11,000 people protested in Albany in favor of charter schools last weekend / OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The de Blasio administration took back the middle school's approval last month, arguing that the co-locations would displace crucial programs for disabled students.

Three of those whose requests were recently revoked are a part of the Success Academy charter schools founded by educator and former Councilwoman Eva Moskowitz.

"We firmly believe that the revocation of the co-locations is illegal," said Success Academy Chief Legal Officer Emily Kim.

Not long before leaving office, the Bloomberg administration approved 45 co-locations, of which de Blasio kept 36.

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Brooklyn. Bus flips on side, injures nine

Six children and three adults were injured in Brooklyn on Monday when a green cab collided with a school bus and flipped it on its side.

Police said that the taxi was driving westbound on Halsey Street at around 4:30 p.m. as the school bus went north on Marcy Avenue in Bedford Stuyvesant.

The Department of Education said that none of the students suffered serious injuries. Students on the bus attend P53K school for special-needs students and the Academy for Environmental Leadership.

Those on the bus, including its driver and matron, were taken to Kings County and Woodhull hospitals as a precaution, school officials said.

Authorities said the cabby went to Kings County Hospital for neck injuries.

The investigation ongoing. **CHESTER JESUS SORIA**

Investigation

Man forcibly touches women in Bronx

Police are looking for a person they said forcibly touched a woman in her Bronx apartment building just after midnight Sunday.

The suspect approached a 29-year-old woman in the lobby of her University Heights building and forcibly touched her around 12:30 a.m., police said.

The woman wasn't hurt during the incident. **ANNA SANDERS**

Metro-North worker struck, killed by train

Probe. Federal authorities are investigating the incident in East Harlem.

Early findings reportedly indicate Romansoff may have left the work zone. / GETTY IMAGES

Federal authorities are investigating after a Metro-North employee was struck and killed by a train in Manhattan Monday morning.

James Romansoff, 58, was hit by the northbound train at 12:54 a.m. while working on tracks at Park Avenue and East 106th Street in East Harlem, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Romansoff, an eight-year veteran of Metro-North from Yonkers, was pronounced dead at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

An investigation is underway, but preliminary findings indicate Romansoff may have gone beyond a protected work zone while restoring power to tracks closed for weekend maintenance work.

The Hudson Line train that hit Romansoff left Grand Central Terminal for Poughkeepsie about 12:47 a.m. The MTA said 36 passengers aboard were moved to another train at 2:17 a.m.

The MTA Police Department and Metro-North are investigating the incident with the Federal Railroad Administration and National Transportation Safety Board.

Safety

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Interview. New Yorker raising cash to fund motor to fit Citi Bike

Commuting to work on a Citi Bike can be a drag, but ShareRoller — a motorized portable drive system — aims to take the pain out of pedal power. Designer Jeff Guida is currently sourcing funds through Kickstarter, and he's already managed to raise over a third of his $100,000 goal. The man behind the motor tells Metro about his invention.

Guida / JEFF GUIDA, KICKSTARTER

Why did you come up with ShareRoller?
The first time I rode a Citi Bike, I was dismayed at how heavy and slow and inefficient they were. It requires twice as much effort as a normal bike and, in my opinion, needs electric assistance. That's when I realized that a Citi Bike was perfectly set up for a friction drive-mount over the front wheel and I dove into development headlong around eight months ago in June.

Will this invention take cars off the road?
I would like to see more people cycling in cities because cars are terrible for getting around places like New York. Some people that I know spend $400 per month on cabs, so I could see this product pushing a lot of people from cabs to ShareRoller.

EDWARD THOMPSON

Thunderbolt coming Memorial Day

The newest Coney Island roller coaster, The Thunderbolt, will officially open Memorial Day weekend, sending thrill-seekers through vertical loops, drops and a zero-gravity roll at up to 55 mph. Ground was broken on Monday on the site of the original wooden Thunderbolt. The ride will be Coney Island's first custom roller coaster since 1927, when the Cyclone was built. The new coaster will stand at 115 feet tall with 2,233 feet of track. / LUNA PARK NYC AND ZAMPERLA

In the Bronx

Car crashes into office, injures eight

Eight people were injured when a car crashed into a Bronx storefront late on Monday morning.

Authorities said that five individuals were taken to Jacobi Medical Center. Three others reportedly suffered non-serious injuries during the incident, fire department officials said.

Emergency officials responded to the C&C Market Research office at 1454 East Ave. in Parkchester at around 11:28 a.m., shortly after a Dodge Charger crashed into the office.

Early reporting from the New York Post said that the driver lost control and veered into the building while he was driving down the commercial strip.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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Channel your inner Picasso at the Althamer show at New Museum

Creator. The public is invited to draw, paint and contribute to a new art exhibition.

Anyone can contribute to the "Draftsmen's Congress" work. / AYMANN ISMAIL, ANIMAL NEW YORK

On the fourth floor of the New Museum in Lower Manhattan, an unusual exhibition asks visitors not to quietly reflect upon art, but to make it themselves. Armed with markers, chalk and acrylic paints, anyone who passes through can make whatever artistic addition they'd like to the gallery's walls and floor.

The project, "Draftsmen's Congress," is the brainchild of Polish sculptor Pawel Althamer — and on any given day, it's a whirlwind of color, with every inch of space adorned with layers of text and images. It's on display until April 13 as part of an exhibition of Althamer's works.

"It's a space for creativity. That was the basic idea," Althamer said, "an open forum to be modified by everybody."

According to Gary Carrion-Murayari, the curator of the exhibition, the walls were covered within hours of "Draftsmen's Congress" opening. Each day, the museum brings in groups from the community to interact with the work, and the public is invited as well.

"For us, 'Draftsmen's Congress' reflects what Pawel's work is all about, and what people who know his work maybe haven't seen in the U.S. before, which is social engagement," Gary Carrion-Murayari said.

The museum hired staff to encourage reserved attendees to dive in and begin painting, but quickly realized visitors didn't require egging on. "It turns out, no one needs that," said Olimpia Dior, a New York artist who was hired as a facilitator.

Merrily making art

"People are not shy. Sometimes it's so busy, we hardly manage to refill the art supplies."
Olimpia Dior

On a recent weekday, a small crowd milled around, drawing and painting. Pastora Valero, a tourist from Brussels, was there with her two children. "They love it," she said. "They've spent 30 minutes just painting, exploring different colors and shapes."

When the artist stepped into the room later that morning, he walked past what one of Valero's children had painted — all-caps block letters spelling out "love fun cool music." Upon seeing it, he asked, "Wouldn't that make a great title for something?"

It was an indicative moment for Althamer, who seems to value the act of making art — no matter who's making it — above any particular work. "For some of my friends who are critics, there is a problem in not getting so-called beautiful paintings, like you'd expect to see in a museum," he said. "But the beauty is the process."

ANDY CUSH

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SXSW Interactive

Snowden calls for intelligence oversight

NSA leaker Edward Snowden called for public oversight of U.S. intelligence programs during a Web-streamed speech at SXSW Interactive, one of the most anticipated segments of the technology conference. Snowden, appearing remotely from Russia where he remains in exile, urged attendees to take more control over how the various intelligence agencies interact with citizens. The speech marked the first time Snowden has addressed U.S. citizens directly since going into exile.

"South by Southwest and the tech community, the people in the room in Austin, they're the folks who can fix this," Snowden said. "We need public oversight, some way for trusted public figures to advocate for us."

SNOWDEN SPEAKS VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE. GETTY IMAGES

While the speech drew generally positive responses, it had been preceded by criticism and controversy, with Rep. Mike Pompeo urging the conference in an open letter to cancel the event, calling Snowden a traitor and a common criminal. NED EHRBAR

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Increase in heroin deaths 'urgent public health crisis'

Heroin is cheaper and easier to buy than oxycodone. / GETTY IMAGES

Volume. The bulk of heroin smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico has climbed in conjunction with increasing demand.

Attorney General Eric Holder said his agency was stepping up efforts to stem sharp increases in deadly heroin overdoses, trafficking in the drug and abuse of prescription narcotics at the root of what he called an "urgent public health crisis."

As part of that campaign, Holder reiterated the Obama administration's call for more law enforcement agencies to train and equip personnel with a medication called naloxone, which reverses the effects of an overdose.

The director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy issued a similar plea to police and fire departments last month.

Holder said 17 states and the District of Columbia have amended their laws to increase access to naloxone, a blocking agent that can reverse the effects of an overdose and help restore breathing.

The rising level of heroin use in recent years stems from a corresponding epidemic in the abuse of prescription opiate-based painkillers, such as oxycodone, DEA officials say.

Many individuals who start out abusing oxycodone turn eventually to heroin as they build up a tolerance to the pills and find that they can buy heroin far more cheaply than prescription medications on the black market, experts say. REUTERS

Increase
45%
Heroin overdoses have increased 45 percent from 2006 to 2010.

Deaths
3,038
Heroin deaths reported in 2010, a 45 percent increase from 2006, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Bracelets

US Supreme court declines to hear 'I [heart] boobies' case

The Supreme Court declined to hear a school district's appeal over an attempt by officials to ban breast cancer awareness bracelets bearing the message "I [heart] boobies," handing victory to two students who challenged the decision on free speech.

The court's decision not to take up the case means that an August 2013 ruling by the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of the students is left intact. REUTERS

Military personnel scanning the sea aboard a Vietnamese Air Force aircraft taking part in a search mission for a missing Malaysia Airlines aircraft. / GETTY IMAGES

Search for missing plane continues

No distress signal sent. Experts suggested a sudden catastrophic failure or explosion.

The disappearance of a Malaysian airliner about an hour into a flight to Beijing is an "unprecedented mystery," the civil aviation chief said on Monday, as a massive air and sea search now in its third day failed to find any trace of the plane.

Dozens of ships and aircraft from 10 countries scoured the seas around Malaysia and south of Vietnam as questions mounted over possible security lapses and whether a bomb or hijacking attempt could have brought down the plane.

The area of the search would be widened starting today, Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, the head of Malaysia's Civil Aviation Authority, told reporters.

A senior police official told Reuters that people armed with explosives and carrying false identity papers had tried to fly out of Kuala Lumpur in the past, and that current investigations were focused on two passengers who were on the missing plane with stolen passports.

Quoted

"Unfortunately we have not found anything that appears to be objects from the aircraft, let alone the aircraft."

Azharuddin Abdul Rahman

"We have stopped men with false or stolen passports and carrying explosives, who have tried to get past KLIA [airport] security and get on to a plane," he said. "There have been two or three incidents, but I will not divulge the details." **REUTERS**

Confrontation

Shots fired in air during raid at Crimea naval base

Unidentified armed men fired in the air as they moved into a Ukrainian naval post in Crimea on Monday in the latest confrontation since Russian military groups seized control of the Black Sea peninsula.

With diplomacy at a standstill, Russia said the United States had. **REUTERS**

Ukraine crisis. Obama and China's Xi focus on peaceful solution

President Barack Obama began a new week of diplomatic consultations on the Ukraine crisis with a phone call to Chinese President Xi Jinping that focused on a peaceful solution to Russia's military intervention.

Obama, who is set to meet Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at the White House on Wednesday, is seeking ways to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to loosen Russia's grip on the Crimea region of southern Ukraine.

Obama spoke to Xi on Sunday night. China is a key ally of Russia and has heightened tensions with Japan by declaring an air defense zone over remote islands claimed by both countries in the East China Sea. **REUTERS**

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Bitcoin exchange

Mt. Gox files for US bankruptcy to halt lawsuit

Mt. Gox, once the world's largest bitcoin exchange, filed for U.S. bankruptcy protection in Dallas late Sunday, a move that will temporarily halt U.S. legal action against the Japanese company.

Mt. Gox, which filed for bankruptcy protection in Japan in February, said without U.S. protection it would spend substantial funds defending itself against a U.S. lawsuit seeking class action status that was filed in federal court in Chicago.

The plaintiff leading the Chicago lawsuit was scheduled Tuesday to ask a federal judge to freeze Mt. Gox's U.S.-based servers and other computer equipment and to set up a trust over Mt. Gox's assets. REUTERS

US posts record public transit use

Light rail, or streetcars and trolleys, experienced a 1.6 percent increase in ridership. / GETTY IMAGES

Report. 2013 marked the highest level of ridership since 1956.

Americans took a record 10.7 billion trips on public transportation last year as an increase in urban living, costlier fuel, more investment and an economic upturn helped drive ridership, an industry group said on Monday.

2013 was the eighth straight year in which more than 10 billion trips were taken on public buses, subways, commuter rail and streetcars, the American Public Transportation Association said in a report.

"It's all about, if you build it, they will come. The investment pays off," APTA President and Chief Executive Michael Melaniphy said in a telephone interview.

Melaniphy said the increase in part reflected increased investment in public transit by the federal government. REUTERS

Increase in rail ridership

103.3
Salt Lake City had a 103.3 percent spike in commuter rail traffic.

37.3
Austin, Texas, had a 37.3 percent rise in commuter rail use.

29
New Orleans had a 29 percent rise in light rail use.

Interview. Newtown gunman's dad wishes son were never born

The father of the gunman who killed 26 people at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school in 2012, said he wished his son had never been born, the New Yorker magazine reported on Monday.

Speaking publicly for the first time, Peter Lanza, father of shooter Adam Lanza, said: "You can't get any more evil. How much do I beat up on myself about the fact that he's my son? A lot."

Adam Lanza, 20, shot and killed 20 first-graders and six staff members at Newtown's Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. Lanza, who committed suicide, also killed his mother, Nancy Lanza.

The rampage was one of the worst incidents of gun violence in U.S. history and sparked a national debate on gun control and school safety.

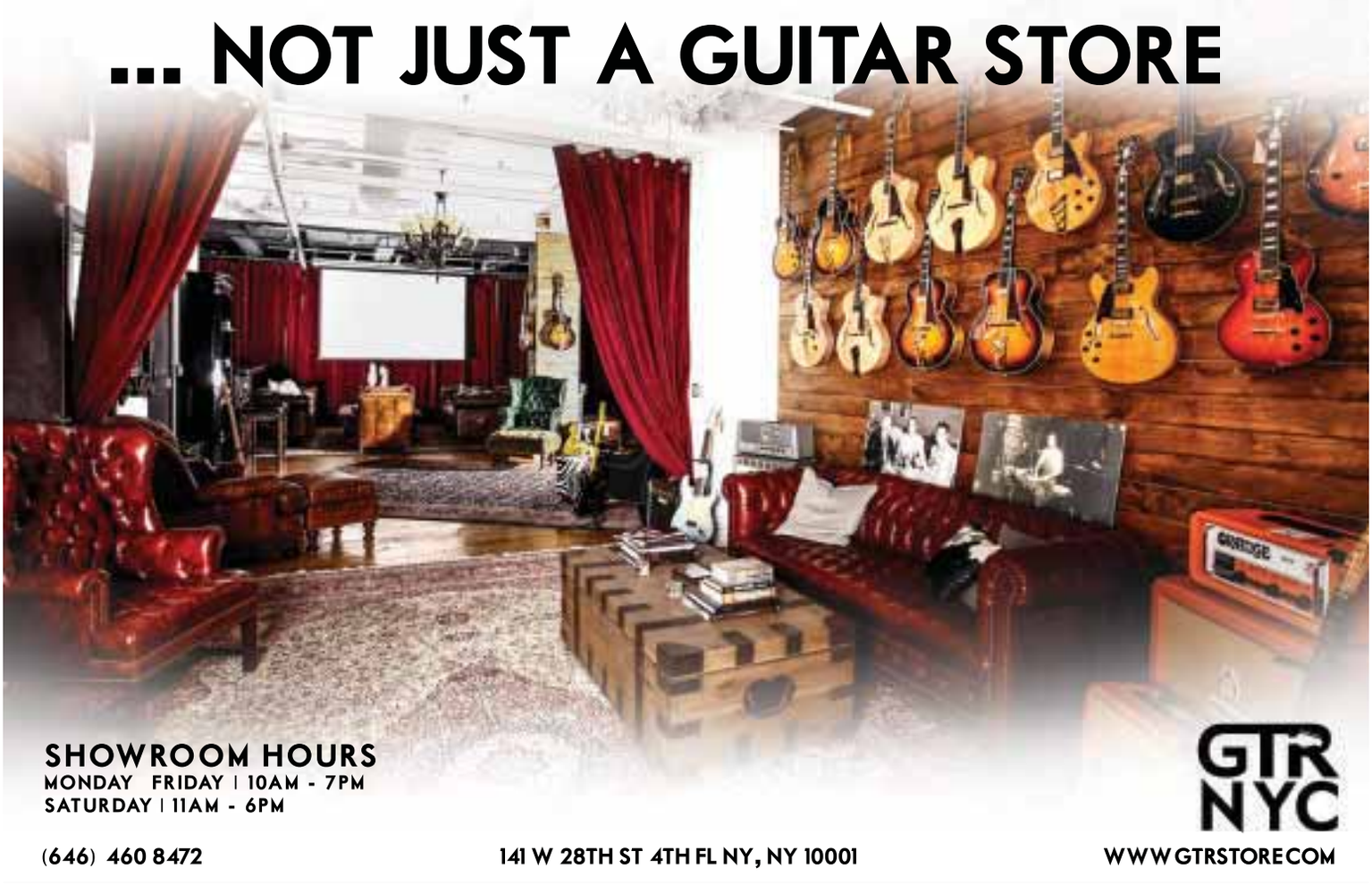
Quoted

"I want people to be afraid of the fact that this could happen to them."

Peter Lanza
In one of a series of interviews with the New Yorker

Peter Lanza told the New Yorker that he wished Adam had never been born and that there could be no remembering who he was, outside of who he became.

"That didn't come right away. That's not a natural thing, when you're thinking about your kid. But, God, there's no question," Lanza, a vice president for GE Energy Financial Services, said in one of a series of interviews with the New Yorker that started in September. REUTERS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'Bladerunner' murder trial

Pistorius vomits in court at autopsy details

Pistorius reacts to the testimony. / GETTY IMAGES

Olympian Oscar Pistorius, on trial for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, wept and vomited into a bucket in a South African courtroom on Monday after hearing graphic details from her autopsy.

Pathologist Gert Saayman was interrupted several times by the 27-year-old Paralympic and Olympic athlete's sobbing and retching.

Earlier, Judge Thokozile Masipa imposed a broadcast blackout on Saayman's testimony out of respect for Steenkamp's family.

Pistorius, nicknamed "Bladerunner" for the special prosthetics he wears in competition, admits he shot 29-year-old Steenkamp, but argues that it was a tragic case of mistaken identity and that he thought she was an intruder who had broken into his home.

In his testimony, Saayman confirmed that Steenkamp was hit in the head, arm and hip by three shots fired through the locked door of a toilet cubicle. A fourth round fired by Pistorius missed.

Saayman also disclosed Pistorius was using "hollow-point" rounds, ammunition designed to disintegrate on impact with tissue to cause maximum damage.

Her right upper arm was shattered, the hip wound could well have been fatal, while that to her head would have incapacitated her immediately, he added.

In between bouts of sobbing and retching, Pistorius sat with his head bowed, covering his ears with his hands and a white handkerchief in an attempt to block out Saayman's testimony. REUTERS

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SECOND SHIFT

Read creative ways city-dwellers make ends meet.

EMILY LAURENCE
Contact us if you have a story to tell: emily.laurence @metro.us

As a program coordinator working in the mental health field, Latasha is on call 24/7. / COURTESY OF LATASHA WOODSON

'I tried to leave New York once'

Work life.
Meet Latasha, a mental health care professional working three jobs and living in Brooklyn.

We all know living in New York is expensive. How does the average person make it work? This week, meet Latasha, who works in the mental health field and has a side job doing psychotherapy so she can advance in her career.

Explain your three jobs.
My primary job is as a program coordinator at Visiting Nurse Service of New York in the behavioral health department. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., though I'm always on call. Then, at 4:30 p.m., I start my part-time job as a per diem social worker. I have a case load of about 30 clients who I'm required to see twice. On Saturdays, I work my third job as a psychotherapist, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where do you live?
I have a one-bedroom apartment in Bushwick, which I pay $1,800 a month for.

Do you ever think about moving somewhere cheaper?
Like where? I'm born and raised in New York. I tried to go the cheaper route once and moved to Virginia. I had a great job was renting a two-bedroom house for, like, $500 a month. I was able to buy a car. It was insane. But I just couldn't do it. I was out there for 65 days and then I was ready to come back to New York.

The stats

Latasha Woodson

Age: 32
Residence: Brooklyn, New York City
Lives: Alone
Number of jobs: 3

YOLO

Do you work multiple jobs to make ends meet or to live the lifestyle you want?

It's definitely a lifestyle thing. I totally believe YOLO, and I totally believe work hard, play hard.

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TURNING EXPENSE TRACKING INTO REAL BUDGETING

"Track your expenses," says every financial guru who has ever posted on a blog or written a book. It's sound advice; keeping a record of what you spend is definitely better than not keeping a record. The problem comes when tracking expenses becomes routine (or automatic, thanks to free online tools). The early buzz of knowing where all your dollars go begins to wane, and you slide back into your old spending habits. Here's how to turn expense tracking into real budgeting.

Hit your target spending goals by using these three steps to set a budget. / COLOURBOX

Step 1

Use your detailed transaction history to get an idea of how much you spend in each area of your life. These are your budget categories, and your spending records give you a reasonable guess at how much of each paycheck you need to assign to each "job" in the budget.

Step 2

Identify your most important financial goal and give it a prominent place in your budget. Decide how much of each paycheck you'd like to assign to it.

Step 3

Every time you get paid, assign dollars to your biggest goal first, then divide the remainder among your other needs and wants.

Once you see that reducing spending in one area of your budget frees up cash for other goals, your total spending shifts into alignment with your real values. It feels like magic; many new budgeters report feeling like they got a raise. All because they put all their needs, wants and goals in front of themselves and made careful decisions about how many dollars each "budget job" deserved. And that's why you want to make the transition from a backward-looking expense tracker to a forward-looking budgeter. Your goals will thank you.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

Quoted

"It's crucial to understand the difference between expense tracking and real budgeting."

YouNeedABudget.com

MARK BUTLER

Mark Butler is the director of outreach for YouNeedABudget.com. Send him your personal finance questions at emily.laurence@metro.us.

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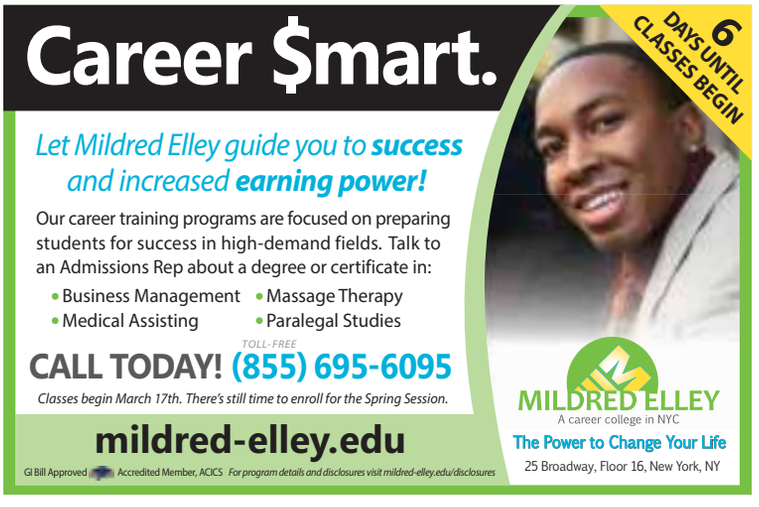
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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Elizabeth Hurley is excited about the season, Neil Patrick Harris is giving his kids some culture, Pam Grier is asking the tough questions and Lena Dunham is second-guessing herself.

@ElizabethHurley: Full of the joys of Spring. Chickens, parrot, dogs and alpacas fed. Lap top open and espresso on the way.

@ActuallyNPH: Took the kids to their first Broadway show today: the Lion King. Mine was 25 years ago: Les Miserables. It's the circle of life...

@PamGrier: Does the World Need Pop-Tarts?

@lenadunham: I just made and deleted a not so great molestation joke. Sorry guys. I am really sleepy.

1 Moss: Marriage was 'extremely traumatic and awful and horrible'

Appearances are deceiving. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"Mad Men" star Elisabeth Moss, 31, really, really, really (and we mean "really") wasn't a fan of her eight-month marriage to "Portlandia" star Fred Armisen, 47.

"Looking back, I feel like I was really young, and at the time I didn't think that I was that young," Moss said of her relationship with Armisen in her new cover story with New York Magazine. The two divorced each other in 2010. "It was extremely traumatic and awful and horrible," she noted.

Add that to the time she said this about Armisen last year — "One of the greatest things I heard someone say about him is, 'He's so great at doing impersonations. But the greatest impersonation he does is that of a normal person'" — and, well, we don't have to ask her what she really thinks about the whole affair. At least we hope the wedding presents were cool?

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

2 Don't do it, Selena Gomez!

Selena Gomez is back with her bad-boy boyfriend Justin Bieber, RadarOnline.com reports. And her parents are none too pleased. "It's definitely against her parents' wishes," a source dished to the site. "But they don't have any control over her. She's pulling the, 'Who makes the money around here?' card. It's a s— show behind the scenes."

The Disney star checked in and out of rehab in January of this year. "The partying was, at times, wild. [Her parents] wanted to help her — and they very much encouraged her to go to rehab," says the source. "Others very close to her also urged her to seek professional help."

For now, Mama and Papa Gomez are at a loss — so they have resorted to simply chaperoning the two. "They're doing their best to supervise them. They're tolerating it as long as they know that there is someone who has eyes on them all the time," says the source.

Talking points

Mama Mendes?

Eva Mendes is reportedly working hard to convince boyfriend Ryan Gosling that it's time to start a family, according to Radar Online. And part of her campaign apparently involves quality time with friends who already have kids. "Eva is spending a lot of time with January and her 2-year-old son, Xander," a source says of her "Mad Men" friend January Jones. "She's going overboard with her supportive relationship with January, who has her hands full as a young mother at the moment. Eva seems obsessed with proving to Ryan that she's ready to start a family."

Aniston: No #selfies, please

Photos of Jennifer Aniston are pretty common, but one thing is for sure: They'll always be shot by someone else, as the former "Friends" star is definitely not a fan of selfies. "I don't understand them," she tells Self magazine. "I feel like there's enough out there. Why add to it?"

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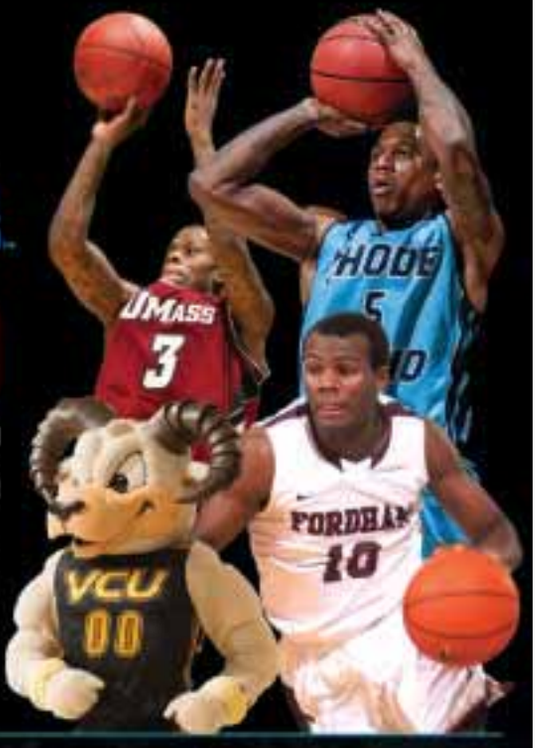

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New Order's newest order

Bizarre concert triangle. Classic alternative band switch it up for Tibet House Benefit, so how will Iggy Pop know who they are?

New Order are joined by the likes of Patti Smith and The National at Tuesday night's benefit for the Tibet House. / KEVIN CUMMINS

New Order singer Bernard Sumner speaks like he doesn't think people know his band. He's participating in the 24th annual Tibet House Benefit at Carnegie Hall Tuesday night, a concert where organizer Philip Glass pairs prominent musicians together to collaborate.

"We are going to do a version of a New Order song called, 'Your Silent Face,'" he says, as if the tune he mentions isn't a bona fide synth pop classic. "A string arranger over here in the U.K. called Joe Duddell has done an arrangement with it and a poet called Mike Garry has written a poem about our ex-label boss, Tony Wilson, who was the boss of Factory Records, who passed away, unfortunately."

Does Sumner not understand that "24 Hour Party People," the docudrama about Factory and all its charges, is required viewing for any self-respecting music journalist? Instead of interrupting to remind him this, we let him continue discussing other collaborative plans New Order have for this event.

"Philip is going to play on it," he says of Glass, "and Scorchio String Quartet are going to play on it, and we're going to do a collaboration with Iggy."

The last kernel of info he seems especially excited about. He doesn't feel compelled to even share that the Iggy in question is Iggy Pop, whom Sumner met once in the 1980s when New Order were arguably a bigger concert draw than the punk legend.

"I shook his hand once," Sumner gushes. "A friend was a roadie for him. I was a bit inebriated at the time. I was so pleased to meet him that I got really drunk. .... and I remember I was drinking tequila that night. ... I was rather ill the next day."

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Not Hooked up

Round and round

Speaking of ill, New Order founding bassist Peter Hook has recently been in the news for speaking ill of Sumner, telling a U.K. website that he believes his former bandmate couldn't stand playing small clubs, so he revived New Order to play greatest hits to make a buck.

Sumner proudly beams that the band has actually been working on new material.

"We've written about 14 ideas, seven of those ideas I've got vocals on," he says, "so we're quite a way on our way."

When asked the band's official stance on Hook, Sumner sighs. The latest round of critical words from his old friend are not the first that the bassist has shared with the press.

"At the end of the day, he left the band. It's as simple as that," says Sumner. "He obviously wanted to do his own thing, which at the time was as a celebrity DJ and then he formed the band Freebass. So of course we've got to respect that, and we wish him all the best, really."

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TV Watch list

That's why it's called 'The Voice' and not 'The View'. / TYLER GOLDEN, NBC

COMPETITION

'The Voice'

Blind auditions continue as judges vote solely on the sounds of the singer and not their looks. That harsh reality will come later in the season.
8 P.M., NBC

COMEDY

'Growing up Fisher'

Inspired by the real life of producer DJ Nash, the Fishers prove that nothing brings a family together like divorce. The lovable J.K. Simmons plays a blind (but overly able) father while Jason Bateman makes his return to television with comedic voice-over narration. **9:30 P.M., NBC**

COMEDY

'New Girl'

On the newest "New Girl," Schmidt gets hit with a lawsuit and for some silly reason calls upon Nick and Winston to represent him in court. **9 P.M., FOX**

TALK

'Jimmy Kimmel Live'

Jimmy Kimmel takes his show on the road to Austin, Texas, for South by Southwest and welcomes special guest Rosario Dawson from the upcoming film "Cesar Chavez" (which is coincidently the name of a popular street in downtown Austin).
11:35 P.M., ABC,
NOLAN GAWRON

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Make it happen. Author Sue Monk Kidd shares her tips for writing your first book

So many people have writing a book on their bucket list, but they have no idea how to actually do it. Hearing about the J.K. Rowlings of the world who make millions off their first attempt sure is inspiring, but is it likely?

It happens, and it can happen to you. Sue Monk Kidd didn't publish her first book, "Secret Life of Bees," until she was 53 years old, and it landed on the New York Times best-sellers list.

"When I started writing fiction, I told myself I would give myself seven years to really learn [how to do it]. Historically, that's how long someone worked as an apprentice, so that's why I decided to give myself that amount of time." Kidd immersed herself in studying great fiction and surrounding herself by good fiction writers, soaking up everything they could teach her.

To find her own voice rather than emulating others, Kidd started writing every day. To write her book, she truly treated it as her career, working on it from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., five days a week. "Writers have their own approach. You have to find what works for you," she says.

EMILY LAURENCE

"WRITING [A BOOK] TAKES DISCIPLINE," SUE MONK KIDD SAYS.
ROLAND SCARPA

Passion project

It's not easy

Regardless of the routine you set for yourself, Kidd stresses that writing a book takes discipline. There will be times when you don't feel like writing, but if you don't push through, it will never get done.

"You have to believe in your vision and be committed to it," Kidd says. "Allow yourself the freedom to find what fascinates you and really believe in that."

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Is this the only way to 'Marry Smart'?

Author Susan Patton isn't concerned about being politically correct. / PROVIDED

Unpopular opinion. Think "Tiger Mom" is controversial? "Princeton Mom" and "Marry Smart" author Susan Patton has her beat.

Susan Patton, better known as "The Princeton Mom," admits in her new book, "Marry Smart: Advice for Finding The One," that she was "born without a politically correct gene."

And that's paid off for Patton. After her open letter ("Find a husband before you graduate") — originally sent to her alma mater, Princeton University — went viral, Patton landed herself a book deal.

Most of Patton's beliefs are politically incorrect — some, shockingly so.

"I think date rape is a fallacy," she says. "To refer to sex that a woman really didn't feel like having but wound up having anyway because she didn't know how to leave or regrets it — that's not rape of any sort. That's sex you wish you didn't have. That's mistake sex." This idea is an expansion on a chapter in Patton's book called "Behaving Badly." Here's a hint: She's talking about women, not men.

Given this rhetoric, it's not surprising that Patton rejects feminism. "I certainly am an early beneficiary of the good works of the feminist movement," she allows. "I used to think a feminist was somebody who believed women should be afforded equal opportunities and rights to men. It might have started that way, but it's gone to the dark side. It's an extreme position of demanding independence from men and looking at them as unnecessary. This is terrible for women."

Oddly enough, some of what Patton says is spoken like a true feminist. "A man's not going to make you happy," she says. "You have to make yourself happy." For Patton, finding a husband is largely a means to an end — having a father for your child.

"If you don't want to have children or be married, then this book is probably not for you," she says. Patton even says if having children isn't a top priority, then "take your time. Date however many men you want."

See more at www.metro.us

Quoted

"To refer to sex that a woman really didn't feel like having but wound up having anyway because she didn't know how to leave or regrets it — that's not rape of any sort. ... That's mistake sex." Patton

ANDREA PARK
@ANDREAPARK
andrea.park@metro.us

"Rules" to follow

Patton's marriage plot

Patton's advice to women who do want children? "Be nice. Learn how to cook. Dress nicely. Learn how to be a good girlfriend. Be sweet. What's wrong with any of that?" she asks. Just don't wait until you're 32: "Then it's absolutely time to settle for Mr. Good Enough."

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An inauspicious debut

Newcomer John Karna is a self-pleasuring teenager in 'Premature'

John Karna may be new to this whole starring-in-a-movie thing, but he's not letting it show. "This is my first paid movie gig, which is pretty awesome. I learned a crazy amount while on-set," he says of "Premature," about a teenager (Karna) stuck reliving the same terrible day, waking up back in his bed that morning every time he masturbates. The role proved to have some interesting challenges, as it turns out.

John Karna spends some of "Premature" in his undies.
FILMNATION ENTERTAINMENT

How prepared were you for the, shall we say, level of exposure involved with this role?
I will say, it was something that I thought at first, "I don't know, I've never done this before." And then the minute you're walking around in your underwear, it's very freeing. You connect to the crew in a way that you could never connect while fully clothed, I think. We were all cool with each other. By the end of it we were all just in our underwear shooting a movie, which was great.

That doesn't sound safe.
No, the health code guy was taking a nap, I don't know what happened. [Laughs] No, but it was actually really cool. I kept hearing from everyone, "You're never going to get a crew that's as nice as this." They sat me down like, "Listen, kid..." I mean, everyone was just unbelievably cool.

The tone of this movie is quite well done. It really tries to balance the raunch with some sweetness.
It read like a John Hughes movie. [Director Dan Beers] wanted it to have the same heart of a John Hughes movie, but with the sensibilities of the teenagers of our day. There's a lot more masturbation, for example. It's impressive. I will say, I saw the movie the other day, and making the movie I was like, "I masturbated every once in a while." I am shocked by how much my character masturbates in the movie. And I think it's great. My parents are going to be really excited to watch that tonight. I've kind of been underplaying it for them, too. But oh my God, it's just buckets of the stuff. **NED EHRBAR**

Like a virgin

Interview. Alan Tudyk hits SXSW for the first time with the "Groundhog Day"-like comedy "Premature."

"Firefly" and "Frozen" star Alan Tudyk has had films that have come to SXSW, but he's never accompanied them. The Texas native makes his in-person debut with "Premature," a "Groundhog Day"-style story about a teen trapped in the same day. The difference here is the day keeps resetting every time he masturbates. Tudyk wants to make it very clear, though, that he doesn't play said teen.

How many SXSWs have you experienced?
This is the first one that I've been to when I have something here. "Tucker & Dale vs. Evil" came here, but I wasn't able to come. But I love Austin. I'm from Dallas originally, and I'd come down here a lot. It's one of the greatest towns ever. I love it because I'm from Texas, and I can sense the Texas. It's a familiar feeling, Texas. It's a good feeling, immediately. Anywhere in Texas there's a feeling of home. But when you think of Texas you don't think of a bunch of hippies — not that it's only hippies. But you know, they say, "Keep Austin weird." It's just … expressive.

I'm sure you know that people in Portland, Ore., have co-opted that saying, making it, "Keep Portland weird."
Their slogan is actually, "Keep stealing slogans from other towns." That's their slogan.

This movie, "Premature," is, let's say, a very original film. How was it pitched to you?
I guess it was "'Groundhog Day' but with premature ejaculation." That's pretty much how you explain it. And with the subject matter as it is, it's actually pretty heartwarming. And I don't know how you pull that off. It's not easy, making it not just a completely crass movie.

And then how do you explain it to friends?
Like that, really. It's about a kid who [orgasms] … real easy. Again and again and again and again, in a lot of different ways. And then I have to immediately state that I'm not the guy who orgasms — nor do I portray the orgasm or any part of that. [Laughs]

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Paris in the spring

Is late winter/early spring typically a busy travel time?
"It depends on the destination. If you're talking about the Caribbean, cruises or Mexico, yes, those areas are booming. But if you're talking about Europe, not really, which means you'll get great discounts," says Murphy.

For fun in the sun

Wait it out

Murphy recommends waiting until the weeks after spring break and Easter to get the better deals in coed-crawling places like the Caribbean. In the U.S., certain places in Florida – like Fort Lauderdale and South Beach — provide good value, but the issue you'll have with that, as with anything in the U.S., is paying for food and airfare.

If you opt for staying stateside, Murphy recommends booking the off-peak days of the week to save some cash.

"Come in on a Sunday and leave on a Thursday," he suggests.

The advantage of taking a flight to Cancun and other tropical destinations is that you can stay in all-inclusive resorts. It costs more to get there, but you save money.

If you want to save money on airfare and go someplace warm (and who doesn't?), look at cruise lines that sail out of Boston and New York, which also provide all-inclusive packages.

Spring into break

See more at www.metro.us

Take care of the nitty gritty now and this can be you. / COLOURBOX

Info. All you need to know before you head out on spring break.

Spring break season is in full swing, but just because the popular travel window is famous for its throngs of coeds doesn't mean everyone can't benefit from a little R&R this time of year.

To help vacation-bound travelers navigate the weary waters of March travel, Metro grabbed some tips from Mark Murphy, New Jersey-based travel expert and publisher of TravelPulse.com and Vacation Agent magazine.

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Book smart

Use your resources

For tech-savvy travelers, Murphy's best advice for booking vacations may come as a shock.

"There are these people called travel agents," quips Murphy. "It's the most obvious secret in travel booking. People feel they can do it themselves, until they screw it up — they overpay and realize they could have gotten a suite for the same price."

The reason: Travel today is specialized, says Murphy. There are agents who specialize in selling cruises, and others who focus on family-friendly trips. The agents have special relationships with their suppliers, which means opportunities for free upgrades, access to car service and discounts.

But one tip: "Not all are good," he says. "Seek out the ones that can really put together a good vacation."

Get out of town

New research from Fly.com found that a majority of New Yorkers are headed overseas as well this season:

- New Orleans was the most popular destination, experiencing a 2 percent price decrease in the last year.
- The cheapest destination is Fort Lauderdale, with airfare deals starting at $264.
- Travel to Paris is the most expensive with deals starting at $761.
- Down from 21 percent last year, the biggest cost-saving opportunity is to Cancun, Mexico.
- The most unusual destination is Paris as it is not your typical spring break vacation spot.
- The average fare for the top 10 cities is $417, down 9.7 percent for these destinations compared to last year.

PLUS

Spring break stats

The Top 10 spring break destinations for college students this year:

- Las Vegas
- New Orleans
- Denver
- New York
- San Diego
- Chicago
- Panama City Beach
- Orlando
- Dallas
- Nashville

Source: Priceline.com

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Parenting. Christine Schmidt, founder of Yellow Owl Workshop, gives her tips on balancing a career with being a mom.

Starting your own business can seem overwhelming, especially if you have kids. We talk to one woman who made it happen, Yellow Owl Workshop founder Christine Schmidt. Use her words as inspiration to take the next step in your career, whether it's working toward a promotion or starting a business of your own.

How did you get the idea to start Yellow Owl Workshop? Do you have a business background?
I have the opposite of a business background — I went to art school! Although I studied fine art, it taught me lessons I use every day in business. I learned how to work with tiny budgets and practical timelines, how to value craft and originality, and the importance of asking questions. Most importantly, I had time to build trust in my own creative vision. I began printing stationery by hand in my basement because the only major cost was my time. After I had enough steady customers, I moved into goods like rubber stamps that require more capital to produce.

Christine Schmidt poses with her daughter next to some of her designs. / PROVIDED

Were you nervous about having the time to be both a mom and own a business?
I consider myself lucky to be able to afford child care. I am lucky to have a job, especially one that is flexible and fulfilling. For many caretakers, these options are not available. I will say that I am very satisfied with my full life — even if I am tired and wearing old paint-stained maternity leggings. My husband and I have child care three days a week, and I often work on weekends and late at night to make up the time. There are days where I drop the ball at work and days I bawl because I've missed something special with my daughter. She just turned 2 and I'm just now learning to forgive myself and work through those guilts.

What have been some career highlights for you?
Taking the financial risk of my first trade show and having it pay off was a big one. Finishing the final edits on my first book, "Print Workshop," was another. After pressing "Send," I laid my head on the keyboard and did that embarrassing laugh/sob only built-up stress and joy can squeeze out of you.

What's next for Yellow Owl Workshop? Anything exciting in the works?
I get most jazzed about making goods that allow others to be creative, especially for those that think they can't. I made a new line of kits to create custom tea towels or a tote bag using drawing stencils and fabric makers. Even those from the "I can't draw" camp will be playing textile designer and be able to use their personal, functional artwork in the end.

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How to stay sane as a working parent

1 **Ask for help.** You will be most productive doing things that you are passionate about and assigning tasks to others when you can. Half the battle is just preventing burnout. It may mean less money in your pocket, and it may even mean less time with your kids, but consider it an investment in your business, your family and preservation of your own overworked brain.

2 **Don't compare yourself to others.** This is most important for caregivers who feel inadequate about work or parenting. Nobody else is in your exact same circumstance, so judge yourself kindly and don't look back.

3 **Give yourself a damn break!** Take some time to be neither a parent nor a business owner, even if it's just taking a bath or watching garbage TV. You will be better at both of these tough jobs if you chill out once in a while.

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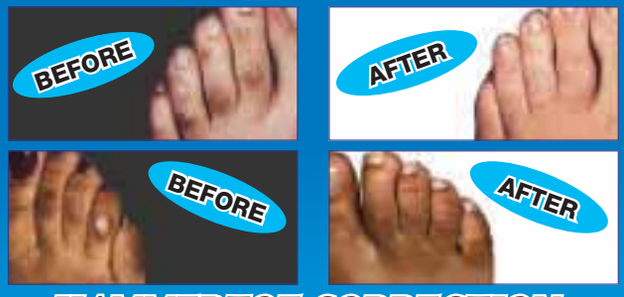

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Do you know 'The Mommy Code'?

Kids. Following Keri White's "code" just might make parenting a little easier.

Knowing the etiquette rules for a dinner party or sticky friend situation is child's play compared to getting along with other moms. Philadelphia-based blogger Keri White has spent years talking to parents and no matter how different they are from each other, they all complain about the same things: that mom at school who brags about her kid constantly, playgroups that put you in a bad mood, parents who never discipline their wild child. White advises what to do in these situations and more in her new book, "The Mommy Code: A New Mom's Guide to Surviving Parenthood." Keep reading to see how the 'mommy code' applies in places you're likely to find yourself this week.

On the playground

Being part of a playgroup is great — your kids can socialize and you can actually talk in your grown-up voice with the other parents. But not all playgroups are healthy. "A toxic playgroup is one that makes you feel yucky when you go," White says. "Whether it's because the other moms are declaring their kid's overt brilliance over yours or the fact that they compost and grow organic vegetables, it creates a competitive mommy superiority feeling," White says. Bowing out of a playgroup doesn't have to cause drama; there's a way to do it without becoming the topic du jour of the other moms. "Just tell them your schedule has changed or that it isn't working out for you and your child. Being a mom is stressful, so being around other moms who wear you down is unhealthy," White says.

At day care or school

There are always going to be those moms who think their child is the smartest, most talented human to ever walk the earth. But even though you may want to snap back, White says it's best to bite your tongue. "You want to talk back so badly and they so desperately deserve it, but rudeness begets rudeness. Nothing good is going to come out of talking back. The high ground is always a better place to be, as hard as it is sometimes," she says. And that's good etiquette for everyone, not just moms.

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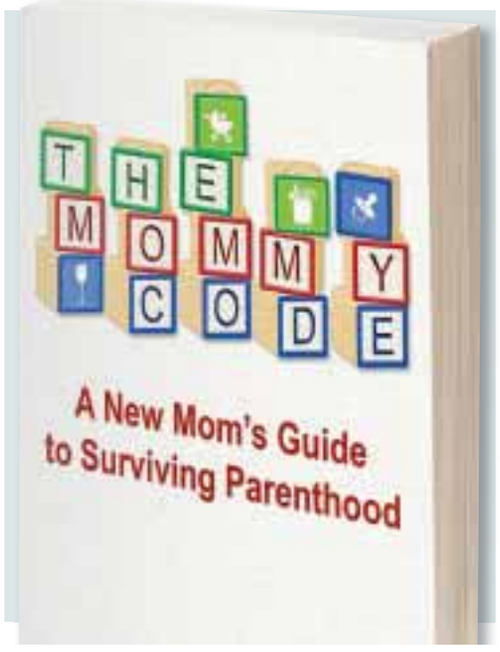
Keri White's book, "The Mommy Code" is out now. / PROVIDED

When others' kids act out

Out at dinner

Disciplining your own kid is one thing, but what do you do when you see another kid acting out of control? White has the solution to this problem in the bag — literally. "If you're at dinner with someone and their kid is climbing all over the table or being disruptive, the key is to distract him or her with some mommy secret weapons," White says. She advises to keep a book or small puzzle in your bag when you know you'll be around kids so you'll have it at the ready. "Saying, 'Johnny seems bored. Do you think he'd like this puzzle?' is a tactful way to navigate the situation," she says.



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Heidi Klum throws baby shower for 125 new moms

Giving back. Military moms got a treat when model surprised them with a massive baby shower.

Heidi Klum poses with just some of the moms at her Operation Shower bash. / BABIES "R" US

Even when you have a padded bank account and tons of support, getting ready for a new baby can be overwhelming. Imagine trying to prepare with limited resources and a deployed spouse.

Heidi Klum gave 125 military moms-to-be a little extra support by throwing them a massive baby shower, in conjunction with Babies "R" Us's Operation Shower initiative.

Operation Shower started in 2007 when one woman gave some baby essentials to a pregnant woman whose husband was deployed. When Babies "R" Us heard about this simple act of kindness, it started donating gift cards, giving more than 200 military families the things they needed for a new baby. Klum's party was the biggest shower the organization has had yet.

The expectant moms were completely surprised with what awaited them at Universal Studios' Globe Theatre in Los Angeles. Part of the gift package that the moms received were new clothes from Klum's new children's line, Truly Scrumptious, which includes bedding, nursery accessories and clothes. After meeting Klum and receiving their gifts, everyone mingled and played traditional baby shower games.

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New games for family night

Playing Scrabble week after week can get a little monotonous. Luckily, there are some very cool games coming out this year that your whole family will love. Be the first to hear about them here. **EMILY LAURENCE**

1 "What if?" puzzles

Puzzles may sound a little retro, but Ravensburger came up with a new twist: You have no idea how the puzzle will turn out until you put it together. The cover image is just a loose guide, which shows what the puzzle's subject would like to happen. For example, in The Lottery, the cover image shows a family living large on a yacht; the life they imagine living if they won the lottery. But when you actually put together the puzzle, the end result is quite different. It just goes to show you that life doesn't always turn out the way you think it will. Ravensburger's "What if?" puzzles are out now.

2 My Monopoly

This summer, Hasbro is releasing the first completely personalized Monopoly game. Families use the My Monopoly app to make a custom board with photos printed from Facebook, Instagram, Flickr and other social sites. You can name the places around the board after real-life places that have personal significance to your family. It's an interactive way to make your memories come to life.

3 Robot Turtles

The most backed board game in Kickstarter history, Robot Turtles (out now) teaches kids ages 4 and up how to code. Seriously. With parents' help, preschoolers learn the principles of coding and programming as they use "code cards" to try and reach a jewel, hidden by obstacles. Learning how to code before you can even read? Now that's innovative.

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Children will help you see the lighter side of life. If you're honest, you will avoid questions.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Nothing will be able to hold. It's important to keep an open mind. Consider the solutions being offered by others. Respect the opinions of colleagues.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. You are likely to take on too much today. Look for possible changes that could help you cut corners, and delegate more jobs to free up some time.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. You will be given an opportunity to increase your income. Look at an old problem in a new light to find a way to advance.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. After much deliberation, you now have the knowledge and resources to make positive changes in your life. Overcome your fear of failure and take the plunge.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You will receive a financial gain. Legal issues are in the process of being resolved. The plan you are involved in should be kept secret.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You will be successful today, provided you have documentation in place. Keep a close eye on your competitors.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You have the power of persuasion on your side. Don't wait for events to transpire. Present your ideas to those in a position to help you.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. After much hard work, you will realize your ambitions. Maintain your current course and ignore those who try to change your mind.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. An old friend will come back into the picture. Love is in the air. Spice up your personal life by offering romance.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. You may need to make some alterations in your quest to move ahead. Find a more imaginative way to present your ideas.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Take care of nagging health issues by making medical appointments that you've been postponing. You will need to be at your best. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

8								4
		5	4			7	1	
		3	5	6			8	2
	8		3	5				
		7				6		
				8	7		4	
3	6			2	9	1		
	1	8			6	4		
2								6

	2	7	3					
9	4	8		1			3	2
3	1				9			
4			1			6		
		9			6			8
			7				6	1
1	5			8		3	2	7
					1	4	9	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Fashion not a woman's best friend

Re: 'Not your mom's jeans' (Metro, March 10)
I am not familiar with "mom jeans" other than the name. I wondered why they were used as an example of "bad fashion." So they are "too baggy." Probably, it is because they allow leg movement. I have communicated with other women on websites meant for women who love outdoor activities, and love comfortable clothing meant for function, not fashion. Even so-called active-wear has "low rises" that pinch and are tight, shirts have "princess seams" making it hard to move, etc.

Stop it, clothing manufacturers. We think men have a better deal with plain, simple designs.
LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA EMAIL

Get excited about the paralympics

This was my second time being in the United States while the Olympics were on. I was very pleased to see all the media reports about them and how proud the country was with Team USA — and they should be. Both times I was equally excited about watching the paralympics or Special Olympics, but the media weren't covering it.
SOFIA ALANIS, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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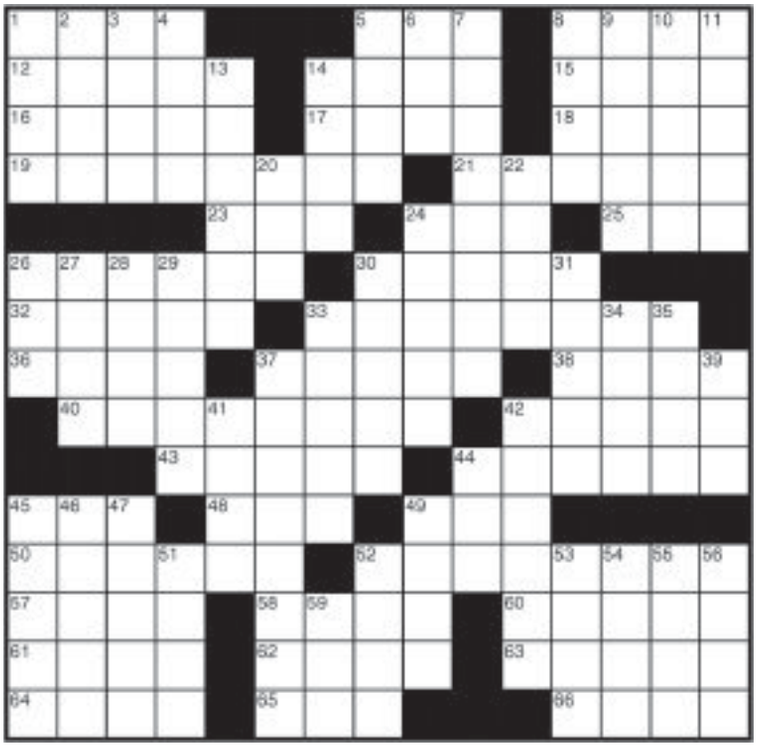
You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!

Crossword

Across
1 Libra's stone
5 Fast-food acronym
8 Term paper abbr. (2 wds.)
12 Hotel employee
14 Waterproof
15 Exploding star
16 Helen, in Madrid
17 Pakistan's language
18 Network
19 Type of flute
21 Frame of mind
23 In vogue
24 Annapolis org.
25 "I've been—!"
26 Vacillate
30 Haggling point
32 Field glass's lens
33 Xenon or krypton (2 wds.)
36 Ding-a- —
37 Raid
38 Felt bad about
40 Stump
42 Whodunit or romance
43 — -craftsy
44 Teen occupation
45 Oola's guy
48 Corroded, as acid
49 Dune buggy kin
50 Seven-veil dancer
52 Squad cars
57 Fermi split it
58 Obscure corner
60 Prickly pear
61 Military cap
62 Joule fractions
63 Ms. Garbo
64 Helper, briefly
65 Old PC system
66 Pair of mules

Down
1 Done with
2 Turn white
3 Obi-Wan player
4 Late-night Jay
5 "The Galloping Gourmet"
6 Brief craze
7 Awkwardly
8 Bridge bldr.
9 Rabbi's reading
10 St. Teresa's town
11 Took on cargo
13 Landing strip
14 Hired a lawyer
20 Big name in chemicals
22 A single time
24 Kind of sprawl
26 Roman sun god
27 Saga
28 Vulcan's forge
29 Sweater letter
30 "— and Bess"
31 Long-plumed heron
33 Unwanted sound
34 First cousin's mom
35 Withered
37 Ready for market
39 "The," to Freud
41 Wheels for nanny
42 Open-hearted
44 Good name for a cook?
45 Honshu port
46 Joyce Carol—
47 Falls softly
49 Havens
51 Exclude
52 Machine teeth
53 Variety
54 "En garde" weapon
55 Pro — (in proportion)
56 Criticize harshly
59 Spanish gold

Yesterday's answer



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3 NFL free agents Jets should be targeting

The Jets have spent the last two days cutting off dead weight — namely Antonio Cromartie and Santonio Holmes with Mark Sanchez likely to follow — ahead of the start of Tuesday's NFL free agency period. Now comes the time to use that money.

General manager John Idzik was just settling into his new role last season when free agency began and had a roster full of bloated contracts not of his doing. He prepared for the 2014 offseason and after a surprisingly promising 2013 season, he has expectations placed on him for the first time.

MARK OSBORNE
@METRONYSPORTS
mark.osborne@metro.us

Alterraun Verner

Antonio Cromartie has been kicked to the curb and suddenly Dee Milliner and Kyle Wilson are the top cornerbacks on the Jets' roster.

Even with Cromartie — there's a chance he gets a new deal for less money — the position is more important than any other on defense.

Alterraun Verner is the top corner on the market. Verner, 25, had five picks last season for Tennessee.

VERNER MADE HIS FIRST PRO BOWL LAST SEASON AND WAS SECOND-TEAM ALL PRO.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE 6-FOOT-3 DECKER HAS 32 SCORES OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

Eric Decker

The sexiest name on the free agent market may be Denver wide receiver Eric Decker. And yes, we're talking about Decker, not his wife.

The 26-year-old had more catches and yards than the top two Jets combined in 2013. But it sounds like it's going to take a lot of money to lure him away from Peyton Manning.

MCCOWN, 34, HAD 13 TOUCHDOWNS AND ONE INTERCEPTION IN 2013.

Josh McCown

Jets fans clamored for legitimate competition for Mark Sanchez. Now they are doing the same with Geno Smith.

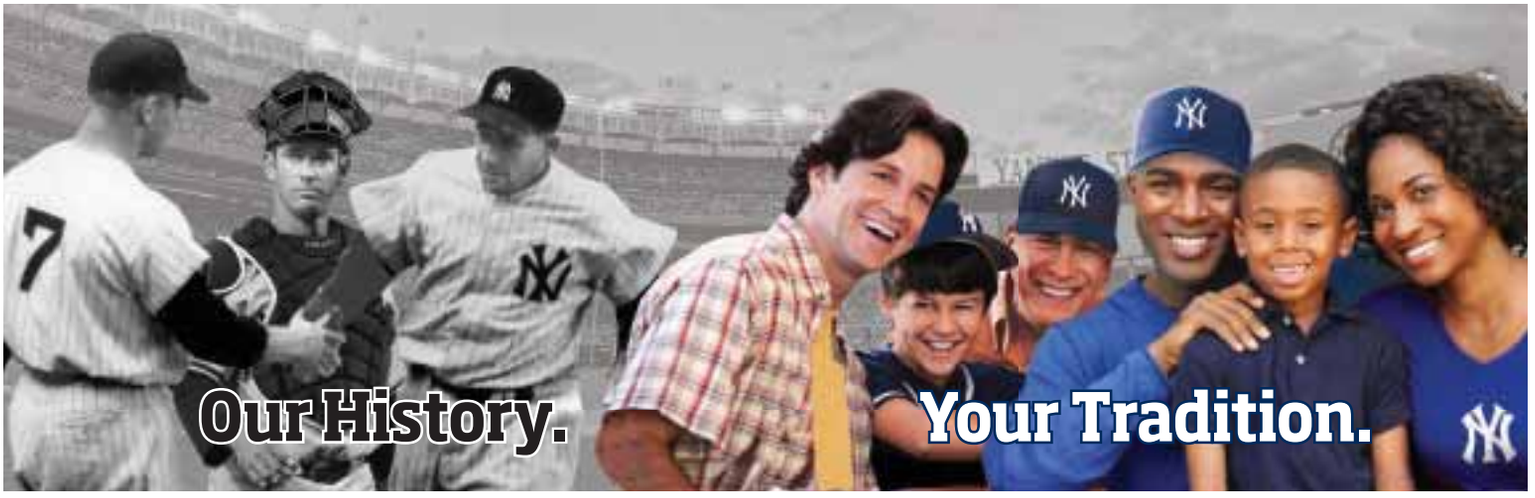
Mike Vick, Matt Schaub and Josh McCown seem to be the top options. Vick, despite his relationship with Marty Mornhinweg, is a divisive player the Jets don't need. McCown fits well.

3 SPORTS

Tone Time out

Jets release Holmes

The tumultuous four-year tenure of Jets wide receiver Santonio Holmes came to an end Monday. The team cut the 30-year-old in order to avoid a $10.75 million cap hit in 2014 and $9.25 million hit in 2015. A team source indicates it's unlikely he'll be re-signed for less money.



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5 NFL free agents who Giants should target

The Giants have a lot of work to do in order to get back into divisional contention, much less the playoff picture, so once the league's official 2014-15 business calendar commences Tuesday, Big Blue will delve in like the other 31 teams.

The Giants wasted no time in having players visit their facility, but none have informally agreed to terms. They'll have some wiggle room under the new salary cap, as they're an estimated $17 million under the $133 million threshold.

Metro looks at a handful of players the Giants could be looking at to fill needs.

TONY WILLIAMS
@METRONEWYORK
sports@metro.us

QUARLESS WAS BORN IN BROOKLYN AND RAISED IN UNIONDALE, N.Y.

Andrew Quarless

The Giants need a tight end and Quarless played under Ben McAdoo, the new Giants offensive coordinator, which means Big Blue may have the inside track on signing the budding player.

He caught 56 passes for 586 yards and three touchdowns his last three healthy seasons.

Arthur Jones

Justin Tuck may or may not return, but even if he does, the Giants need to replenish their once-deep defensive line.

Look for Big Blue to inquire about Raven Arthur Jones. The 6-foot-3, 315-pound Jones was a 3-4 defensive end in Baltimore, but could also kick inside to defensive tackle in a 4-3 look. While he's the lesser-known of the three Jones brothers, Arthur has a versatile skill set.

ARTHUR'S BROTHER CHANDLER PLAYS FOR THE PATRIOTS, WHILE BROTHER JON IS THE UFC LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Brian de la Puente

David Baas missed most of last season which makes his $4.75 million base salary for 2014 high. Even if he stays, he'll need competition. New York has expressed interest in Saints center Brian de la Puente.

Jameel McClain

Jon Beason may be the most sought-after free agent who played for the Giants last season. But like Tuck, the linebacker was told by management to test the market and gauge his own value.

If he's out, former Raven Jameel McClain is someone to keep an eye on after making a second visit last week.

TATE HAD 898 YARDS AND FIVE TOUCHDOWNS LAST SEASON.

Golden Tate

Hakeem Nicks is a free agent and unlikely to return on a long-term deal. He's said he would sign a one-year deal, but history shows some team will certainly reach and overpay.

The Giants have backup plans that reportedly include Golden Tate of the Super Bowl-winning Seahawks or Emmanuel Sanders of the Steelers.

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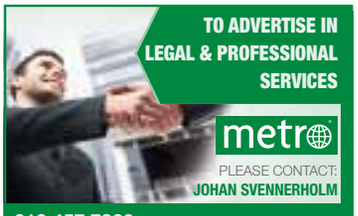

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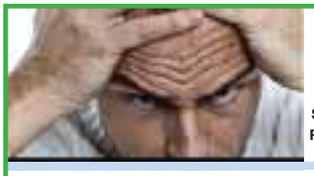

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Time of death 6:55pm.

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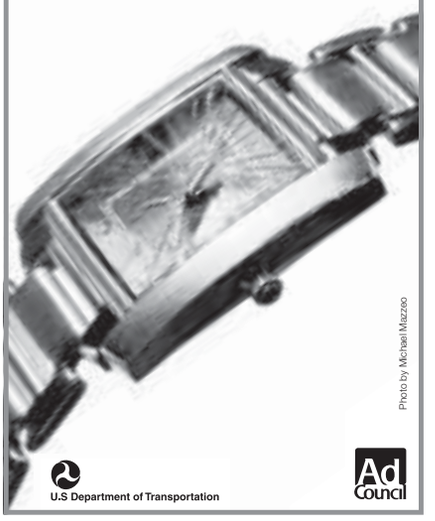

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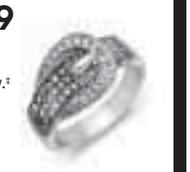

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